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**THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

## **TESTIMONY**

of the

## **CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**

to the

## **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

March 19, 2010

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on the following bill of interest to towns and cities:

### **R.B. 5522, "An Act Concerning Juvenile Matters"**

**CCM supports postponing the effective date of PA 07-4 to (1) provide much-needed fiscal and administrative relief to hard-pressed property taxpayers and local governments during this economic crisis, and (2) allow local and state leaders adequate time to address procedural and funding concerns and solutions through modifying legislation.**

According to police officials, implementation of this mandate could result in significant additional costs to municipalities for staffing, training and infrastructure.

Connecticut's towns and cities are facing economic crises not seen in at least a generation. From layoffs – to accessing reserve accounts – to reducing and eliminating library, transfer station, and community center hours, and police overtime – local officials are in the trenches when it comes to making tough decisions in these difficult economic times, and scarcer resources and tougher decisions lay ahead.

**Implementation of the raise the age mandate – with this backdrop of fiscal peril, inadequate funding, and evolving and increasing needed fixes – would contradict the intent of the law by impeding local public safety in a time when resources are so very scarce.**

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If you have any questions, please call Ron Thomas or Gian-Carl Casa of CCM at (203) 498-3000.